

Report of the Students' Society Programming Network to Council

29 November 2018

Children of the Corn

This year's SSPN Halloween took place at Macdonald campus, just as it did in 2017. Over 800 students purchased tickets, some including busing to and from Mac from the downtown campus, but the majority not. This number represents a reasonable increase over last year's total ticket sales. There was a very significant busing issue that essentially overshadowed the successes the event saw.

Around 12:30 am, Bus.com made a phone call to SSPN with news that several of the seven buses that brought students to Mac campus from downtown would not be returning to bring the students home. (Bus.com, which owns no buses, acts as a middleperson, contracting out various bus service providers to meet customers needs) One of the bus companies reported that, on the way to Mac, some students had drunk, smoked, and/or thrown up on multiple buses. Because of this, the drivers of these buses decided they were not going to do the return trip. The VP Internal exhausted all possible means of persuading the buses to return, offering additional money, offering to have himself and SSPN members clean the buses, and even getting the President of Bus.com on the phone with the bus service providers. When none of these ideas worked, he called dozens of different bus companies, hoping for emergency service, but none of the companies answered the phone because of the very late hour. No public transportation was running in the vicinity at this time. The VP Internal reached out to McGill Security to try to think of solutions, but nothing panned out. The VP also called the Dean of Students and tried to reach various other administrators in the hopes of having Mac-Downtown shuttles do emergency, impromptu trips downtown, but this didn't work out. Seeing no other options, the VP Internal, upon consultation with SSPN, decided that all students who purchased tickets that included transportation would have to

hail their own Ubers, Téos, and taxis to get home. The VP Internal promised that, since SSPN guaranteed transportation home for these attendees, the students would be reimbursed in full. The VP Internal walked around to all groups and individuals who required transportation, explaining to them what had transpired and answering any questions they had. A problem arose when a majority of students used Uber, causing surge pricing. The VP Internal and other SSPN members, upon realizing this, asked all those left to consider other transportation options. SSPN's first priority was absolutely **to ensure all students got home safely**.

Around 80 students have requested reimbursement, their requests totalling approximately \$10,000. The VP Internal has been working hard to draft all the cheque requests; manage the sorting and cross-referencing of all receipts and bank statements with the attendee list, and following up with students who accidentally made errors in their reimbursement requests. Unfortunately, around 90 percent of requests contained errors, so the accounting process (which is already known for being rather slow), has not been very quick. That said, the end is in sight.

SSPN and SSMU's Board of Directors took this bad situation as an opportunity to draft and approve internal rules for future SSPN event planning. These practical rules, which really should have been created years ago, will help SSPN be more proactive and prepared in the future.

Faculty Olympics

- Committee roles have been designated
- Venues search has begun
- Theme decision imminent
- Materials procurement process started

Trainings

- Sustainable events training (complete)
- Equity training (upcoming)

- Consent/sexual violence training (upcoming)
- Any members who miss any given training must attend make-up session

Self-Care Programming

- Initiative between SSPN and VP Student Life to distribute “self-care” food and items in libraries on one or two possible dates
- Kudos to sponsorship rep, Khanh, for all her great work on finding in-kind sponsorships

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew McLaughlin

Vice-President (Internal Affairs)